

REMARKS

The statement in the outstanding Office Action that claims 9-22, 25, 33-40, and 50-63 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is appreciated. The features of claim 13 have been introduced into independent claims 1 and 24, and the features of claims 54 have been introduced into independent claim 42. As a result of the amendment to claims 1 and 42, claims 13 and 54 are cancelled. Furthermore, as a result of this amendment, it is believed that all of claims 1-12, 14-53, and 55-64 are allowable.


The outstanding Office Action includes a rejection of claims 1-8, 23, 24, 26-32, 41-49, and 64 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over International Publication No. WO 03/099548 to Hoffman. In view of the amendment to independent claims 1, 24 and 42, it is understood that this rejection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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